



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
www.epa.gov/region8

JAN 18 2017

Ref: 8P-AR

Mr. Chris Horn
Senior Area Engineer
Colorado Division
Federal Highways Administration
12300 West Dakota Avenue, Suite 180
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Ms. Vanessa Henderson
I-70 East Environmental Manager
Colorado Department of Transportation
2000 South Holly Street
Denver, Colorado 80222

Re: I-70 East Project - Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination and National Environmental Policy Act Comparative Analysis Information for the Record of Decision (ROD)

Dear Mr. Horn and Ms. Henderson:

On January 12, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) submitted comments on the "I-70 East Air Quality Conformity Determination and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Comparative Analysis Information" for the proposed I-70 East Project. Thank you for your prompt response to our comments through discussions with us and by providing additional technical information on the modeling methods, traffic data, and assumptions supporting your draft Air Conformity Determination as requested by EPA in the January 12 letter.

After reviewing the supporting technical information received on January 17, the EPA was able to complete a review of how the hot-spot analysis was performed for two volume sources of the project. Our analysis was performed to confirm that the air quality modeling files were generated with the appropriate emissions from the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model, road dust, and roadway configuration. The EPA can confirm that the two volume sources we checked matched the FHWA analysis. The modeling we were able to review can be considered reasonable.

In addition, we want to thank you for acknowledging on the January 17th call that the FHWA and CDOT have revised the Air Conformity Analysis to address the technical concerns and the requested corrections highlighted in our January 12 comments. Our understanding based on the discussion is that you have addressed all those concerns and made the requested corrections. We also note that FHWA and CDOT have stated to the EPA that the same supporting technical information provided to us on January 17th was available for the public to access upon their request during the 30-day public comment period.

Thank you for quickly responding to our comments to address the EPA's concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6936. For questions related to NEPA, your staff can contact Phil Strobel, the EPA Region 8's NEPA Program Director, at (303) 312-6704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Morales". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Monica" and last name "Morales" clearly distinguishable.

Monica Morales
Acting Director, Air Program